

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed September 26, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed February 22, 2007. Claims 1-50 stand rejected. In this amendment, claims 1, 5, 8-9, 11, 13-14, 17 and 44-50 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 13, 15-16, 21, 23-27, 34, 36-37, 42 and 44 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chacon, (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,588, hereinafter “Chacon”). Claims 7-12, 14, 22, 28-33 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon, as applied to claims 1-6, 13, 15-16, 21, 23-27, 34, 36-37, 42 and 44 above, in view of Beauchesne, (U.S. Patent No. 5,777,876, hereinafter “Beauchesne”). Claims 17-20, 38-41, 43 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon, as applied to claims 1-6, 13, 15-16, 21, 23-27, 34, 36-37, 42 and 44 above, in view of Martorana, et al., (U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0236628, hereinafter “Martorana”). Claims 46-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chacon, as applied to claims 1-6, 13, 15-16, 21, 23-27, 34, 36-37, 42 and 44 above, in view of Coin, et al., (U.S. Patent No. 6,697,750, hereinafter “Coin”).

As discussed below, the pending claims are patentable over the above references.

The cited art fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, as claimed in claim 1:

storing in that record a second field identifying an attribute whose value is outputted by the class of equipment identified by the first field of that record, wherein said attribute is a sensor measurement or operating parameter of said class of equipment identified by said first field; and

storing in that record a third field specifying an ID which the class of equipment identified by the first field of that record assigns to the attribute identified by the second field of that record.

Similar limitations are included in independent claims 17, 21, 38 and 42-45.

The Examiner submits Chacon discloses, at col. 2, lines 24-29, storing in the record a second field, as claimed. Applicants disagree.

Chacon discloses at col. 2, lines 24-29: "... if a process parameter and an equipment parameter... are entered, the system creates and suggests the time standard to use for those times that are not likely to have large variations." Thus, Chacon does not disclose the second field being output by the class of equipment. Instead, in Chacon, a user enters the process and equipment parameters and the system calculates time standards based on the entered data.

In contrast, in embodiments of the present invention, the parameters are outputted by the mainframe, process chambers or instruments themselves. As a result, the relevant data does not need to be manually entered by maintenance personnel, as required in prior art systems, such as Chacon.

The Examiner also point to the sample graphical user interface of Figure 7 of Chacon for support for the above limitation. Applicant notes that embodiments of the presently claimed invention do not require a user interface. In contrast, the database is created, modified and maintained automatically, without user input, in embodiments of the presently claimed invention.

The Examiner also submits Chacon discloses storing in the record a third field specifying an ID, as claimed, at Col. 30, lines 35-37 and col. 18, lines 35-38. Applicant disagrees.

Chacon merely discloses that the devices made by the equipment are stored in a table at col. 18, lines 35-38. Chacon does not disclose that different equipment may have different ways of identifying the process and equipment parameters stored in the record.

Similarly, at col. 30, lines 35-37, Chacon merely discloses that the rules accumulate

counters for the equipment ID. Chacon, also, does not disclose here that the different equipment may have different ways of identifying the process and equipment parameters stored in the record.

In contrast, embodiments of the presently claimed invention recognize that different types and models of equipment generally impose different interface requirements because they differ from each other regarding the number and kind of data communications interfaces, the attribute they output at the data interfaces, and the ID's required for a diagnostic apparatus to receive the values of selected attributes (which also may occur among different production versions of the same model of equipment). By storing records as presently claimed, a single database can store communications interface specifications and other properties of diagnostic attributes outputted by various classes (models and/or version) of equipment to be tested.

Moreover, Chacon does not teach a record having first, second and third fields, as presently claimed. As shown in Figures 5, 7 and 9 of Chacon, Chacon merely discloses identifying equipment, the devices made by the equipment, and scheduling data for making the devices in its database.

Neither Beauchesne, Martorana, nor Coin, alone or in combination with Chacon, disclose the above limitations.

Thus, the cited art fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 17, 21, 38 and 42-45. Claims 2-16, 18-20, 22-37, 39-41 and 46-50 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the foregoing independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a), and submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION

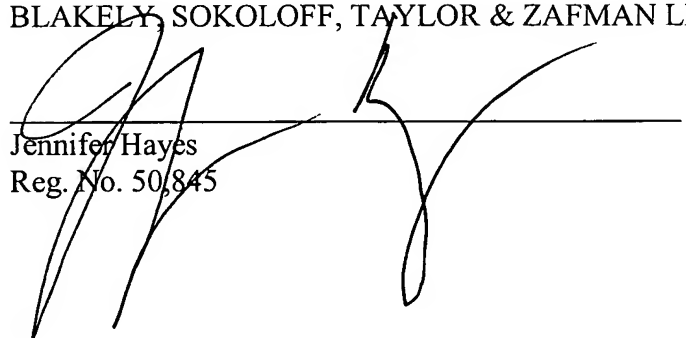
Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Marina Portnova at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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